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 SECURITY INFORMATION
 CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
 INFORMATION FROM
 FOREIGN DOCUMENTS OR RADIO BROADCASTS

REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Poland
 SUBJECT Military - Biographic
 HOW PUBLISHED Daily newspaper
 WHERE PUBLISHED Warsaw
 DATE PUBLISHED 3 - 23 Oct 1952
 LANGUAGE Polish

DATE OF INFORMATION 1952

DATE DIST. 20 Nov 1953

NO. OF PAGES 6

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

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SOURCE Zolnierz Wolnosci

BIOGRAPHIES OF EIGHT POLISH GENERALS
 AND A NAVAL OFFICER

The following biographic material on nine Polish military figures was obtained from a series of biographic sketches in the daily newspaper Zolnierz Wolnosci, central organ of the Ministry of National Defense. The occasion for the series was the candidacy of these military figures for election to the Polish Sejm. All were elected.

Numbers in parentheses refer to appended sources.

Lt Gen Wladyslaw Korczyc

Lt Gen (General Broni) Wladyslaw Korczyc, Deputy Minister of National Defense, was born 1 September 1893 in Pohdanowicz village in Slonim Powiat (now part of USSR), of a poor peasant family. He participated in the Great October Revolution in Russia and later headed the School of Polish Communards in Moscow. In May 1944, he was appointed Chief of Staff of the Polish First Army, and in October 1944 he took over its command. On 1 January 1945, he was appointed Chief of the General Staff of the Polish Army, which included the command of the First and Second Army of Poland. He has received the following Polish decorations: Grunwald Cross, Second Class; Cross of Virtuti Militari, Third and Fifth Class; Order of Polonia Restituta, Third Class; Gold Cross of Merit; and many others. Among other honors, the Soviet Union decorated him with the Order of Lenin.

He is a member of the KC PZPR (Komitet Centralny, Polska Zjednoczona Partja Robotnicza, Central Committee of the Polish United Workers' Party) and was a candidate for the Sejm as deputy for District Number 40, Szczecin. (1)

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Lt Gen Stanislaw Poplawski

Lt Gen (General Broni) Stanislaw Poplawski, raised in a peasant family with small farm holdings, is one of the main organizers of the Polish Army. He rose from the ranks to become a general in the Soviet Army, helped capture Warsaw and break the Wal Pomorski /Pomorze Defense Line/, captured Kolobrzeg, and forced the crossing over the Oder River. Under his command, units of the First Army took part in surrounding and capturing Berlin. He then pursued the enemy to the Elbe. He received many commendations in communiques issued by Generalissimo Stalin.

He was commander of the Polish First Army and has been wounded seven times. He has received the following Polish decorations: Grunwald Cross, Second Class; Commander's Cross with a Star of the Order Polonia Restituta, Third Class; Cross of Virtuti Militari, Second Class; Banner of Work Order; two Gold Crosses of Merit; and many other commemorative medals. The Soviet Union has given General Poplawski the highest Soviet decorations and has honored him with the title of Hero of the Soviet Union.

As Deputy Minister of National Defense, he has been in charge of training in the Polish army.

He was candidate for deputy of the Sejm for District Number 44, Wroclaw.(2)

Maj Gen Bronislaw Polturzycki

Maj Gen (General Dywizji) Bronislaw Polturzycki, in 1944, was deputy commander of the First Corps, which later became the Polish First Army. Polturzycki was given the job of organizing an officers' school in the First Corps, the Pierwsza Zjednoczona Szkola Podchorazych (First Unified Officers' Candidate School), at Ryazan'. It consisted of two rifle battalions, a CKM (Ciezkii Karabin Maszynowy, Heavy Machine Gun) battalion, an artillery division, a company of each of the following: tanks, engineers, communications, and chemical warfare, and a squadron of reconnaissance cavalry. Polturzycki was in charge of the school.

Two months after starting this school he organized the first officers' improvement center, which later became the advanced schools for infantry and artillery officers.

In January 1944, he was attached to the First Corps. He had received his training in the ranks of the Soviet Army and is an outstanding organizer.

Polturzycki was born in Nesvizh near Slutsk [in the USSR]. In the battle of the Dnepr, he commanded a division, and was seriously wounded in the leg by a dum-dum bullet when he was cut off by Hitler's troops. Later, he joined the Polish Army, before his wounds were healed. He was responsible for organizing many Poles who were officers in the Soviet Army into the Polish Corps. He was deputy commander for political affairs of the First Army (after the First Corps became the First Army).

He directed the Centrum Wyszukolenia Oficerow (Officers' Training Center) in Lublin, and formed tank and motor regiments. He received the incoming officers from the Soviet Army and with their help created several types of forces. He was chief of the Department Piechoty (Department of Infantry) and at the same time the chief of the First Department Poboru i Uzupełnien (Department of Conscription and Recruiting). Through the RKU (Rejonowa Komenda Uzupełnien, Regional Recruiting Center), the Polish Second Army was recruited. The Second Army was led by Lt Gen Karol Swierczewski, and, with the Russians, fought to Drezno.

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He was candidate to the Sejm as deputy for Bydgoszcz District.(3)

Maj Gen Wlodzimierz Strazewski

Maj Gen (General Dywizji) Wlodzimierz Strazewski was former Chief of Staff of the Polish First Army. He is commander of the Wroclaw Military District.(4)

Maj Gen Boleslaw Kieniewicz

Maj Gen (General Dywizji) Boleslaw Kieniewicz, of the Krakow Military District, was born in Dworec of a poor Polish peasant family which settled in Belorussia. In 1926, as a 19-year-old youth he joined the Soviet Army as a volunteer. He later assisted in the formation of the Polish Army in the USSR during World War II. He became deputy field commander of the First Division. He was deputy commander of a division at the battle for Lenino. He then became commander of the Fourth Division in the battles for Warsaw, Wal Pomorski, and the Oder River. The Fourth Division formed the nucleus for the KBW (Korpus Bezpieczenstwa Wewnetrznego, Internal Security Corps). In addition to many Soviet decorations, he also has received the following Polish decorations: Grunwald Cross, Second and Third Class; Cross of Virtuti Militari, Third Class; Gold Medal, Merited on the Field of Glory; and others.(5)

Maj Gen Jerzy Bordzilowski

Maj Gen (General Dywizji) Jerzy Bordzilowski, as Chief of Engineers of the First Army, was responsible for the construction of the pontoon bridge across the Oder River in 1945. His engineers also took part in the liberation of Warsaw, breaking through the Wal Pomorski, and crossing the Oder River. He also participated in the battle for Berlin. After the war, his engineers extracted over 14 million mines, shells, and duds in Poland.

He was born in Ostrow Mazowiecka in 1900. His father had been a physician. Bordzilowski was in Russia during 1914-1918 and fought in the Revolution. He advanced in rank in the Soviet Army and fought against Hitler's troops. He took part in the battles of Stalingrad and Kursk, and the liberation of Kiev and Minsk. He forced the Dnepr three times and the Don twice. Under his direction the Soviet engineers built crossings on the Bereza and Nyeman. He was wounded in 1941 and moved to the rear. He also took part in defending the bridge on the Dvina.

He has received the following Polish decorations: Grunwald Cross, Third Class; Order of Virtuti Militari, Fifth Class; Order Polonia Restituta, Third Class; the Banner of Work Order, First Class; two Gold Crosses of Merit; and others. The Soviet Union decorated him twice with the Order of Lenin, four times with the Order of the Red Banner, the Order of Kutuzov, and many others.

He was candidate for the Sejm from Katowice electoral district.(6)

Maj Gen Piotr Jaroszewicz

Maj Gen (General Dywizji) Piotr Jaroszewicz was former deputy commander of the Polish First Army, and then for a few years, Deputy Minister of National Defense and Chief Quartermaster of the army. He is also a former teacher.

His mother was a sister of a farm blacksmith from the Radziwillow estates and his father a village teacher. In 1930, at the age of 21, he began teaching in Borowie near Garwolin. A few years later he completed the advance teachers course in Warsaw. He worked for the ZNP (Zwiazek Nauczycielstwa Polskiego, Polish Teachers' Association). He was principal of a general five-class school in Michalowice near Garwolin.

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In September 1939, he was put in charge of constructing a new seven-class school in Pilawa. (9)

He joined the Second Division of the Polish Army as a private when it was formed in the Soviet Union. From helper in the supply room and office clerk, he became political education officer. He was, in turn, deputy commander of seven companies, battalion deputy commander, deputy commander of two divisions, and in October 1944, deputy commander for political affairs of the Polish First Army. He was appointed by Boleslaw Bierut as deputy chairman to the PKPG (Panstwowa Komisja Planowania Gospodarczego, State Economic Planning Commission).

He was candidate to the Sejm as deputy for Radom District. (7)

Brig Gen Kazimierz Witaszewski

Brig Gen (General Brygady) Kazimierz Witaszewski took part in forming the Pierwsza Diwizja im. Tadeusza Kosciuszki (Tadeusz Kosciuszko First Division). He was active in the Związek Patriotów Polskich (Union of Polish Patriots), the CRZZ (Centralna Rada Związków Zawodowych, Central Council of Trade Unions), the Ministerstwo Pracy i Opieki Społecznej (Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare), the Komitet Wojewódzki (Województwo Committee) of the PZPR in Wrocław, and the KC PZPR.

He was candidate for the Sejm for Kłodzko District. (8)

Zdzisław Studziński, a Naval Officer

Zdzisław Studziński (Komandor Podporucznik [No equivalent US naval rank.]) entered the PPR (Polska Partia Robotnicza, Polish Workers' Party) after the war. The PPR sent him to the school for political officers, then to the Oficerska Szkoła Marynarki Wojennej (Naval Officers' School). Upon completing the course he became a commanding officer.

He was candidate to the Sejm as a deputy for Gdansk District. (9)

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SOURCES

1. Zolnierz Wolności, 3 Oct 52
2. Ibid., 4 Oct 52
3. Ibid., 22 Oct 52
4. Ibid., 15 Oct 52
5. Ibid., 23 Oct 52
6. Ibid., 14 Oct 52
7. Ibid., 17 Oct 52
8. Ibid., 16 Oct 52
9. Ibid., 11 Oct 52

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